



The Mint Master

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE—JUNE

I want to thank Darin Lee our Curator for our 'Birthday Prizes.' Darin does a great job each month on the 'Buy of the Month' along with the other prizes. I hope that everyone had a great time at our 65th Birthday party too.

We also want to thank Elsie Finnegan for her winning the UNS Medal competition this year with the subject being Lagoon. Bob Campbell brought the UNS 'Type Set' which was also enjoyed by all as were the UNS Medals and Proof Sets. Another thanks to Tom Davis for bringing the cases in which to display them, all in all we had exceptional displays and the UNS should be very proud of them and our membership for making our club one of the best in the country.

Don Swain did an outstanding job of conducting the medal competition and there was some very strong entries this year.

Larry N. Nielsen

ANNUAL YOUTH NIGHT - JUNE 14TH

This month is our annual YOUTH NIGHT which will be presented by Phil Clark. This is one of our most highly attended meetings of the year and we urge you to invite your friends, scouts, and for you Grandparents, make sure that you bring your grandkids.

As always, every prizes and gifts some great fun only coins but



youth will receive as well as have learning about not history.

JUNE'S AGENDA

GreetingsLarry Nielsen
Mini Exhibit..... NONE
News & Views..... Collin Cagle
Coin Quiz..... Bruce Griggs
Refreshments..... Colin Cagle

HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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GALVANOS AND ELECTROTYPES

by
Allan Schein

There are numerous ways that counterfeiters make their fake coins, but one of the most accurate in detail and the simplest to create are Electrotypes. This method was not designed for the purpose of counterfeiting, but was used extensively by sculptors to produce more durable and lasting duplicates of their plaster designs. The technology used was known as electro-galvanic casting, producing what is called a Galvano. The process had existed for years with the use of the small crude batteries that existed even in the mid 19th century to make copies of sculptural reliefs. But it was not until the early 1890's when commercial electricity became available to Americans with a stable source of lower voltage power, that the technology became practical for larger metallic duplicates. An artist named Jules Edouard Roiné, a French-born sculptor specializing in bas-reliefs took the making of Galvanos to the next level.

According to the information on the website for the Medallic Arts Company, *"By 1894 Roiné had gathered all the equipment, chemicals and technology knowledge necessary to produce electroforms. He cast his relief model, a plaque of Marguerite Delpech, believed to be his first Galvano production, at least in America."*

The Galvano is commonly used for the reproduction of coin designs that are reduced to a working size in the mint by a machine called a Janvier lathe, basically a reduction duplication machine. A large clay or plaster model is not durable enough to withstand the reducing process, which can take several days. So the model is duplicated in the same manner as an electrotypes coin is made. Once reproduced in metal it has the durability to allow for the positive reduction in steel by the mint, to make original hubs for coin production.



Allan Schein



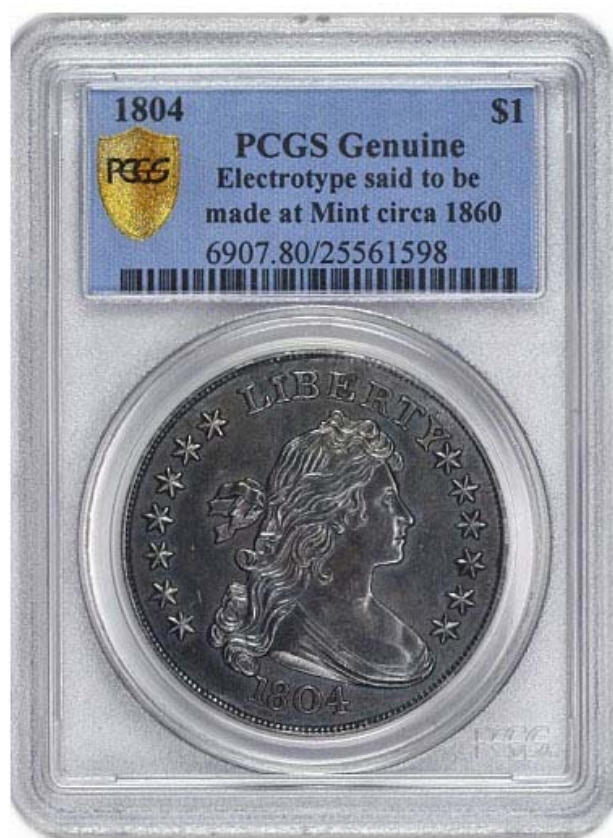
ELECTROTYPES IN THE REDUCING ROOM AT THE BRITISH ROYAL MINT



JANVIER LATHE, ROYAL MINT MUSEUM

Electrotypes, as we call small metallic duplicates of coins, are made via a chemical process used to form metal parts that exactly duplicate an original. They are *"usually a very high quality piece of workmanship, but the process is not suited to mass production"* according to Virgil Hancock and Larry Spanbauer in their 1979 book on the subject entitled *Standard Catalog of Counterfeit and Altered United States Coins*. This process also involves making two separate molds from an original coin, one of the obverse and one of the reverse. The mold material is usually soft such as wax or latex. Since the process does not produce much heat, these make suitable easy to use molds. Electrotyping is a wet chemical process using a base material, such as copper, silver or gold, an electrolyte solution and the mold. The process involves an electric circuit that has a source of power, often just a powerful battery connecting a wire to the metal source material. Another wire is attached to the mold (which is coated with an electricity conducting material such as

graphite), and both are suspended in a liquid electrolyte solution. The power source is activated, and microscopic bits of the source material are dissolved into the solution and consequently deposited onto the mold surface. The dissolved material gets deposited onto the mold surface at the same rate as it dissolves from the source material completing the electric circuit. When the layer deposited becomes thick enough, the process can be stopped by disconnecting the source of electricity. The mold and attached wire are then removed from the solution and separated (or melted away if wax), resulting in a perfect copy of the original molded impression. Once both halves of the coin have been produced, the edges are cleaned up, a filler material poured into each half, and the two sections joined together. Fillers can be lead, plaster or other compounds suitable for the purpose. A seam will usually be visible on the coins edge. This is a telltale sign the duplicated coin is an electrotype, and diagnostic evidence of the process. The "joint" may be in the center of the edge or to one side or another by the rim making it a bit more difficult to detect. Electrotypes are very high quality reproductions, but detectable by weight differences, lack of distinct "ring tines" when struck to detect sounds, and evidence of the seam wherever it has been joined together. In almost all instances, cast coins and electrotypes will not weigh the same as a genuine coin, so checking a coins weight is imperative if you have a doubt about authenticity.





There are other ways to create an electrotype, and this includes making a complete 3-D copy, sometimes from an Investment casting (investment meaning in the casting process "to surround"). The 3-dimensional mold is attached to a wire, coated with the conductive material, and similarly has a layer of metal built up until sufficient to fully coat the copy. We tend to use the name electroplating where the entire item is coated or plated with some metal. There will be some slight degradation in the quality of the copies details as it loses sharpness to some degree in each step of its manufacturing process.

In 1883 the U.S. Mint issued a new 5c piece, the Liberty or "V" nickels as they were known. An oversight by not placing the specific denomination of "cents" anywhere on the coin created some immediate problems. An enterprising young man named Josh Tatum noticed this and gold plated some of these nickels. He would visit a store to purchase a 5c cigar and place a plated nickel on the counter, and the clerk would give change for the \$5 Gold piece it looked like. He was arrested before long. These nickels are still around today, known to collectors most commonly as "Racketeer Nickels", and sometimes still as "Tatum Nickels". The Mint made the change as soon as they became aware of their error by modifying the issue and adding the word "cents". The process used was electroplating.



RACKETEER NICKEL



NO "CENTS"



WITH "CENTS"



ORIGINAL 1883 "NO CENTS" ISSUE

A process known as spark erosion is a process that is practically the opposite of the electrotype process. It creates a near perfect reverse of the coins image on a steel die blank. A coin or model and blank are suspended into a non-conducting solution and electric current passed through the two pieces. A pulsing spark jumps between them gradually eroding the surface of the die in a perfect replica of the model leaving a reverse image. Under microscopic examination, tiny pits that might appear on the dies will appear as tiny bumps on the struck counterfeits. However, the process has become more refined and it is getting more difficult to identify these copies without close examination.

Since the electrotype category of counterfeits have excellent details, the collector/dealer needs to know how to identify a fake. Here are several ways to assist you in their evaluation:

First, carefully examine the edge and look for a seam or joining point. It may be in the center of the edge, only partially visible; or may be at the very top (or bottom) near a rim. A 16x loupe is most helpful in finding well camouflaged seams.

Weighing of course is another manner of determining fake from real, as it is nearly impossible to perfectly duplicate the weight. Most often the fill material for an electrotypes core is lead, but this will still vary from an authentic coins weight. On gold coins, the metal closest to its weight is Tungsten, so a glue covered core wedged between the two halves of a Gold counterfeit will closely match a real coins weight.

A very important way to check for the authenticity of a coin is called the Specific Gravi-

ty test, which is done by water displacement. It cannot be done unless the coin is in a raw state, because once encapsulated it is no longer possible without cracking it out of the slab. Specific Gravity, also referred to as relative density, refers to the ratio of density of a solid (or liquid) to the density of distilled water at 4 degrees Celsius (39 degrees Fahrenheit). Density is the degree of compactness of any substance. Specific gravity of a metal is its weight in grams for 1 cubic centimeter of the metal. Water weighs 1 gram per milliliter (ml) and therefore has a specific gravity of 1. A single milliliter of a liquid is equivalent to 1 cubic centimeter of a solid. Gold weighs 19.32 grams per cubic centimeter (cm) and therefore has a specific gravity of 19.32. Materials with a specific gravity less than 1 will float because they are less dense than water, and those with a heavier specific gravity than 1 will sink in water.

First, the beaker holding the water is placed on the scale and set to balance at zero. The process of determining the specific gravity of a coin is to weigh it dry, then suspend it in a measured amount of water. (Suspension is done with a light cord or thread, used to cradle the coin.) The wet weight is then subtracted from the dry weight. The difference is the weight of the displaced water. The dry weight is then divided by the displacement weight, which gives you the coins specific gravity. Sounds complex, but in reality it is quite simple. You can find a chart online that will give specific gravity of all compositions of metal used in U.S. coins.

There are almost as many ways of creating fakes or counterfeit coins as there are people who create them. The same process used by legitimate authorities who make Galvanos in order to produce our coins has been "pirated" by counterfeiters and used for their own personal gain. Even the U.S. Mint experimented with this process, as shown in a photo above of the 1804 Dollar. These processes are now used in industry on a daily basis, have become extremely refined, and sometimes used for deception.

Know what you are buying. Honest dealers will always tell you if a coin is an electrotype. Extremely well made ones are highly sought after and very collectible.

Happy Coin Hunting.

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Featured U.S. Coin Highlights from the Stack's Bowers Galleries ANA World's Fair of Money Auction

August 9-13, 2016 • Anaheim, CA

U.S. Consignment Deadline: June 27, 2016 • World Consignment Deadline: June 14, 2016

Stack's Bowers Galleries is once again an official auctioneer for the 2016 ANA World's Fair of Money. Our experts have handled at auction just about every coin, note, medal and token, from ancient issues to modern times, and our client list includes proven buyers in every collecting specialty. Don't miss the opportunity to consign your coins, currency and other numismatic material to this important event.



1854 Liberty Seated Half Dollar.
Arrows. WB-101. MS-66 (PCGS).



1885 Three-Dollar Gold Piece.
MS-65 (PCGS).



1868 Pattern Ten Cents. Judd-647,
Pollock-720. Rarity-6-. Nickel.
Plain Edge. Proof-65 (PCGS). OGH.



1911-S Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle.
MS-66 (NGC).



1847-C Liberty Quarter Eagle.
MS-61 (NGC).



1802 Draped Bust Half Dollar. O-101,
T-1. Rarity-3. VF-25 (PCGS). CAC.



1807 Capped Bust Half Dollar.
O-112. Rarity-1. Large Stars, 50/20.
AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.



1836 Capped Bust Half Dollar.
Reeded Edge. 50 CENTS. GR-1.
Rarity-2. AU-53 (PCGS).



1908 Barber Half Dollar.
Proof-66 Cameo (PCGS).



1870 Pattern Silver Three-Cent Piece.
Judd-799, Pollock-886. Rarity-7-. Copper.
Reeded Edge. Proof-65 RB (PCGS). OGH.

For more about this auction or to consign to a future event, contact a numismatic specialist today!
West Coast: 800.458.4646 | East Coast: 800.566.2580 | Info@StacksBowers.com



1803 Draped Bust Silver Dollar.
BB-252, B-5. Rarity-2. Small 3.
AU-53 (PCGS).



1893 American Numismatic Society
Columbus Quadricentennial Medal.
Silver. 77 mm. 259.7 grams. Eglit-105,
ANS-6. Choice Mint State.



1876 Trade Dollar. Type I/II.
Proof-65 (PCGS). Secure Holder.



1795 Flowing Hair Half Dollar.
O-105, T-25. Rarity-3+. Two Leaves.
VF-35 (PCGS).



1815/2 Capped Bust Half Dollar.
O-101a. Rarity-3. EF-45 (PCGS).



1876 Liberty Seated Quarter.
Proof-66 Cameo (PCGS). CAC.



1967 Ellis Island National Shrine Medal.
Gold. 33.64 mm. 27.22 grams, .5833 fine.
Swoger 201-IVBa, Turner-20.
MS-65 (NGC).



1797 Draped Bust Dime. JR-1.
Rarity-4. 16 Stars.
VF-35 (PCGS).



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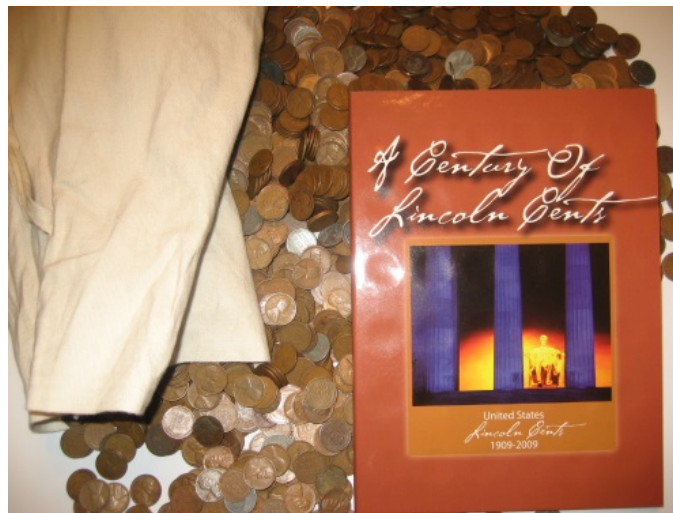
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YOUNG NUMISMATISTS CORNER

SUMMER IS A SPECTACULAR TIME FOR YOUNG NUMISMATISTS

As a young numismatist reading this article, you are probably jumping with joy at the thought of summer vacation. No early get ups, no homework to try and squeeze in each evening, no tests to study for, and almost three months of relative freedom to do whatever you want to have fun, fun, and more fun. Fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, family trips, and scouting all sound like fun summer activities, especially here in Utah. If you're not a young, youth age numismatist, the excitement of the youth has probably been overshadowed by anticipation, anxiety, and maybe even flashes of terror about the challenges this summer vacation may bring. But; for the UNS family, and especially our young collectors, June is a super month with two activities which might provide rewarding direction for the remainder of the summer.



Starting off the summer vacation is the annual UNS Youth Night program on June 14th, 2016 which is the focus of our regular club meeting for the evening. This year, we have well over 10,000 Lincoln Wheat cents, which is a significant number of coins available to search through and fill holes in the folders which are provided by the club. If you have already received a folder, you may want to bring it with you to the meeting so you can fill remaining blank spaces or upgrade coins you've previously picked. There is no cost to youth participants and every youth will leave the meeting with a lot more coins and collecting supplies than they brought with them. Many of our young at heart older members and local coin dealers are very generous in supporting the UNS youth program. So, mark your calendar and bring a youth friend with you. It will be a fun filled experience that only comes once a year and might provide some ideas for your free time during your summer vacation.

Three days after our Youth Night program, there will be a token and coin show on June 17th and 18th at the Larry H. Miller Center on the Salt Lake Community College campus in

Sandy, Utah. This is the same location/venue we use for our UNS show and this show is sponsored by the National Utah Token Society (NUTS). This show offers free admission to club members with a card and, like our show, has a raffle for 20 U.S. Silver dollars and a \$2.50 gold coin. Raffle drawings take place on the hour with the final drawing including the gold coin. Winners do not need to be present. This show, like our show, helps fund the various activities of the NUTS club and is always a great show with lots of familiar dealers on the bourse floor and plenty of great numismatic material.

July is also a great month for young collectors at the annual UNS family picnic. The picnic is scheduled for July 12th in Sugar House Park. Besides great food, young collectors are given the opportunity to search through sawdust for coins, tokens, medals and special chips which can be exchanged for a valuable coin. And again, like youth night, it cost youth nothing to participate and what you find is yours to keep.

I truly hope your summer this year is refreshing, relaxing, and rewarding. Hope to see you and hopefully a friend at the different activities.



Phil Clark

AUTHOR SCHEIN WINS MEXICO'S PRADEAU AWARD

Allan Schein has been given the Alberto Francisco Pradeau Award by the Sociedad Numismática de México (the Mexican Numismatic Society) for his book Mexican



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Regulated Gold Coins

By Doug Nyholm



Let me ask, how many of you are familiar with the term, "Regulated Gold Coinage?" Even though most of us have never used this term and may be completely unfamiliar with it, virtually all of us are familiar with the associated coins. Probably the most famous regulated gold coin is the Brasher Doubloon. This coin is in the "Red Book" and recently an example sold for over \$4 million dollars. There are two basic examples of this coin, one with

an "EB" punch on the wing and a unique example with the "EB" punch on the breast. Recently in the Stacks-Bowers 'Rarities Auction' several additional examples of gold coinage with an "EB" punch were up for sale. Additionally examples with punches associated to John Burger and Joseph Richardson were also highlighted. Two examples in the auction were punched with two different assayer punches.

So, what are these coins and why do these punches exist? These punches occurred on various world gold coins, many which were minted in South America. Even the Brasher Doubloon minted in New York was punched by Brasher himself.

To add a little history to the subject, in early America beginning with the NE Shilling followed by the Willow, Oak, and



Pine Tree Shillings dated 1652 many unscrupulous people attempted to shave, clip or otherwise attempt to remove tiny amounts of silver from



coins in their possession and then afterwards spend the coin for full value. Remember, the intrinsic value of coinage was equal to the amount of metal or bullion in the coin. Thus performing these clipping or shaving actions upon hundreds or even thousands of coins could potentially produce several ounces of silver scrap which could be melted and resold as bullion. Wages in the 17th and 18th centuries amounted to as little as just a few dollars per week. Reeding was later ap-

plied to silver and gold coins to prevent this practice. Back to these "Regulated" gold coins from the 18th century, many similar problems occurred through time and the weight of the gold coin would be reduced. Counterfeiting was also a concern and especially with transactions in gold, merchants had to be constantly on guard. Gram scales and testing kits were not available so here is where Brasher and others stepped in to fill the need for verification. These were well known and respected individuals who were also well versed in metals, refining and coinage. There were a large number of world gold coins in circulation at the time, especially in the eastern United States and in the large cities. For large monetary transactions involving bulk amounts of gold the exchange was conducted in gross weight of the gold however smaller transactions involved only a coin or





two. This is where these assayers applied their trade, by inspecting individual coins to determine if they were of proper weight or even if they were counterfeit. If the coin met the standard they would use their punch to mark the coin, if underweight they would add a gold plug into the coin to bring it up to standard and then apply their punch. Many times the punch was applied directly to the spot where the plug was inserted. If you think about this, in

a manner of speaking they were certifying the coin essentially becoming the forbearers of PCGS or NCG of their time. This then is what was known as regulating or regulated gold coins. These coins were then returned to the merchants for a small fee and everybody was happy.

As stated, counterfeits could also be identified and removed from circulation by these regulators. One other method to assure that these world gold coins would not be used to short or take advantage of merchants was to melt them for re-coinage. This was rather difficult at the time since the U.S. Mint would not accept gold bullion for coining until 1795 and other methods in America were relatively expensive and scarce.



During the 18th century there were probably tens of thousands of 'Regulated' gold coins bearing punches from these and possibly other as-

sayers in circulation. Most have long since been melted and very few remain. These coins may not be your cup of tea to collect but there is a loyal collector base interested in these very historic coins. Prices range today from about \$50,000 up to several hundred thousand dollars per coin!

Pictured within this article are several examples from the recent Stacks-Bowers auction. Now you know what 'Regulated Gold Coins' are.



Doug Nyholm





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JULY

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AUGUST

GUEST SPEAKER

SEPTEMBER

APPRAISAL NIGHT /
FAVORITE COIN

OCTOBER

AUCTION

NOVEMBER

ELECTION ' / GUEST
SPEAKER

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS

AS ALWAYS THE UNS
SINCERELY APPRECI-
ATES THE CONTRIBU-
TIONS OF LOCAL
DEALERS AND BUSI-
NESS TO OUR ANNU-
AL YOUTH NIGHT.
THIS ACTIVITY GOES
A LONG WAY IN PRO-
MOTING INTEREST IN
NUMISMATICS WITH-
IN THE YOUNGER
RANKS. WE ARE
THANKFUL FOR CON-
TRIBUTIONS THIS
YEAR FROM LOCAL
BUSINESSES:

**LEGACY COINS
MAJESTIC COINS
ALL ABOUT COINS
RUST COIN
MONARCH
KOLORCRAFT**

PRIZES FOR JUNE

Youth prize - Early Coin Designs 3-Coin copper round set
On-time prize - 1987 Constitution Commemorative Dollar UNC
Member prize - 1883 O Morgan Dollar

Buy of the Month

For the Buy of the Month item this month a have a small selec-
tion of Flying Eagle Cents. This series was only minted for a total
of 3 years (including 1856) and the series also includes an 1858/7
overdate. The coins available for purchase are 1857, 1858 Sm.
Letter and 1858 Lg. Letter. (Sorry no 1856). This is a must-have
for any type set and these are fairly difficult to come by. Grades
for these coins cover the range from Good to Very Fine. The re-
tail price for this range of grades is \$30 to \$75. I was able to get a
very good deal on these and will sell them for \$25 each. Come
early to get the best ones!

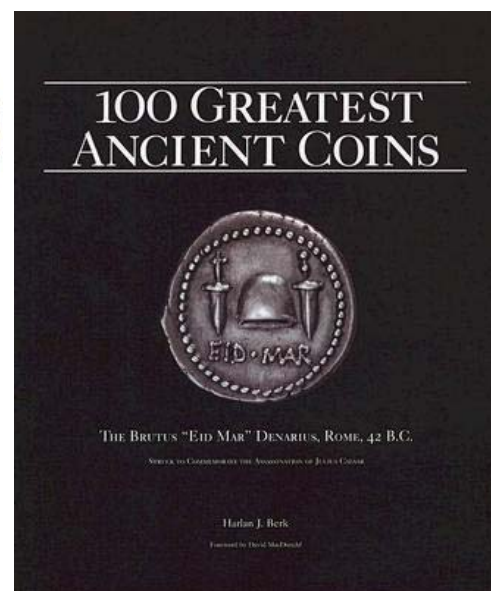
Drawing Prizes

2016 National Park Service Commem Half UNC
2016 National Park Service Commem Half Proof
Island of Niue Silver Turtle
3 Off-center Strike Lincoln cents
Mexico 1964 Mint Set
2015 Mohawk Ironworkers Coin & Currency Set
Bicentennial Silver 3-Coin Set
2001 Library of Congress Commemorative Dollar Proof
1921 Mercury Dime AG/G
3-coin SGS MS70 Presidential Dollar Set
Framed WWII Coin set
2016 National Park Service Commemorative \$1 Unc
1865, 1868 Nickel Three Cent Pieces experienced
1841/1877CC Seated Lib. Dimes experienced
Civil War Token Our Army
1938 S Washington Quarter VF

**Additional individual club members and dealers also
contribute significantly to the success of this annual
event. Thanks for your support!**



Above is pictured a 'Ionia Electrum Stater' which according to the book is considered to be the first appearance of coinage in human history. It dates to approximately 650 B.C. They are valued around \$20-\$25 thousand dollars.



"100 Greatest Ancient Coins"

As reported earlier in the Mint Master I recently reviewed the newest addition to the '100 Greatest' series regarding women on coins. I somehow missed purchasing the book on ancient coins and recently added it to my library. This book was published in 2008 and is a great book on the subject. It follows a similar format, oversized, full color, containing 131 pages. One marked difference however, is rather than beginning with number 1 and progressing to number 100 this book has the coins depicted chronologically. The first is the Ionia Electrum Stater which is coin #81. This took a little getting used to but in retrospect I think it was a good idea. Many of the ancients listed are extremely rare, some unique, and condition of the coins pictured is amazing. The first 8 pages of the book include a very concise text regarding collecting ancients and the descriptions are very well done. As stated the first coin is from 650 BC and last dated 1453. The majority of the coins are much earlier and date mostly before Christ. I found this book an excellent addition to the 100 Greatest Series and for one who does not collect ancients substitutes well for a pseudo ancient collection. Another highly recommended, easy to read, and wonderfully illustrated book from Whitman by the well know numismatist, Harlan J. Berk.

Doug Nyholm



The #1 coin is the Brutus 'EID MAR' Denarius. This was struck commemorating the assassination of Julius Caesar in 42 B.C.



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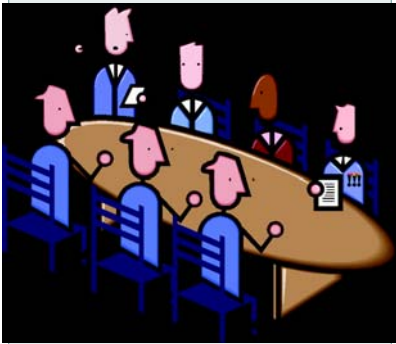
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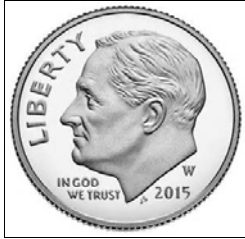
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HOSPITALITY

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Special Coin Quiz for Young Numismatists

Bonus Question?

Which coins do not belong
in the pictures shown here?

“Coin quiz for our Young Numismatists?”

1. In what year was the first of the modern commemorative coin struck?
A) 1968
B) 1982
C) 1972
D) 1976
2. A Roosevelt dime with a ‘W’ mintmark was released in 2015. What was the other date with a ‘W’ mintmark?
A) 1982
B) 1995
C) 1996
D) 1976
3. Washington quarters are dated for each year since 1932 except for two. One is 1933, what is the other year?
A) 1938
B) 1975
C) 1955
D) 2001
4. Kennedy half dollars are no longer produced for circulation. What was the last circulating Kennedy?
A) 2001
B) 2004
C) 2003
D) 2005
5. Eisenhower Dollars were last minted during which year?
A) 1975
B) 1978
C) 1977
D) 1980

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Dave Blackhurst

801-580-9534



Pogue Sale Update

Two more Million \$ Coins

The Pogue sale number IV is now in the history books. There were two highlighted coins which unfortunately did not sell, these being the MS-68 1804 Silver dollar and the only available 1822 \$5 Half Eagle. Bids were strong, in fact record setting, but still fell short of the reserve. The highest bid for the 1804 dollar (including the buyers fee) was \$10,575,000! If it would have sold this would have set a new world record for a single coin. The bid for the 1822 Half Eagle was also a very strong \$7,285,000. We will have to wait to see what the future holds for these two coins.

In the meantime there were two coins which did top the million dollar mark. These were the 1833 Proof Half Eagle which garnered \$1,352,250. The other million dollar coin was a 1795 Draped Bust Dollar hammering at 1,057,500.

Finally, the Pogue collection is now the most valuable collection ever sold at over \$85 million dollars with still more to come.



EDITORS MESSAGE—JUNE 2016



This month we will have our annual Young Numismatists meeting. This is one of the most attended meetings of the year and the Utah Numismatic Society is pleased to dedicate this meeting to any and all youth who may be interested in the study of coins, their history and of course collecting coins.

There is much to be learned and enjoyed in what has been called the hobby of Kings. Not only is it fun and enjoyable to collect coins but much can be learned from them. Throughout history not only in the United States but the world in general, coins have been an integral part of commemorating special events, famous people, and indications of the time-period in general.

Certain coins were struck due to economic turmoil, war, and many other events thru history. These range from the assassination of Julius Caesar in ancient times to the assassination of John F. Kennedy just a few decades ago. There are hard times tokens from the early 19th century which depict many political views of politics at that time. Civil war tokens were issued by the thousands during that conflict which not only advertise but indicate sentiments during the war. These were also created out of necessity as there was a shortage of specie at the time. More recently there have been dozens of commemorative coins struck by the U.S. Mint to honor many individuals and events. Coins have indeed had a great part in the worlds history and by collecting and researching these coins one can learn so much more about history than just knowing the mintage, rarity, and value of the coins we collect.

I urge all of you, especially the youth to take a little deeper look into the coins you collect or are interested in. As I have said many times, purchase a book or two on virtually any numismatic subject you desire and make a point to spend an evening or two learning. If you have any questions about your coins, a particular coin, or just something you have wondered about, write it down, bring it to the next UNS meeting and don't hesitate to ask a member. If he doesn't have the answer I bet he will now be intrigued and help you find the answer. Remember, knowledge is king and learning is the key. Enjoy this hobby to the utmost. Doug Nyholm



A MYSTERIOUS 1942-S JEFFERSON 'WAR NICKEL'

Every once in awhile something unusual comes along that can't be explained. The May 9th issue of 'Coin World' reported on such an item. Of course, we all know about the silver 'War Nickels' with the large mint mark above the dome of Monticello minted from 1942-45. The well known exception are the types 1 & 2 nickels minted in Philadelphia in 1942. Type 1 is the traditional copper-nickel composition and Type 2 is the Silver-Manganese-Copper composition. The coin discussed in Coin World is a



1942-S in the silver composition, however it has a small S mint mark to the right of Monticello rather than a large S above the dome. NGC, PCGS, and ANACS have all examined this coin and all decided not to authenticate it. On the other hand no service or expert has gone so far as to call it a counterfeit either. Even more mysterious is the coins composition. The regular 'War Nickels' composition is 56% Copper, 35% Silver, and 9% Manganese. This anomalous nickel is composed of 50% Silver, 45% Copper, and 6% Manganese. (I know that adds up to 101% but that is what was reported) Further examination of the coin shows the S mint mark of correct style and position. Also the date numerals appear correct with no signs of alternation.

This coin has actually been known since 1961 and is included in Breen's Encyclopedia of Coins. I had never heard of it nor been aware until the publication of the Coin World article. My book about Unusual Coins which I wrote several years ago will now have an addition.

The conclusion of the article made no assumptions and the coin still remains a mystery. The only information I can add is that this coin was dated during the time Francis Henning was counterfeiting Jefferson Nickels on a massive scale. Dates of his counterfeits are known from 1939, 1946, 1947, and 1953. Interestingly the 1946 counterfeit he produced was made of the traditional per-war composition and had no mintmark, even the large P above Monticello was missing. I wonder if this may have been an experiment of Francis Henning?

Doug Nyholm

Another highly unusual Jefferson Nickel is pictured below.

This is a modern Uniface Obverse Proof from 1972



Coin Quiz Answers

1) B 1982 2) C 1996 3) D 1975 4) A 2001 5) B 1978

The answer to which 1908-SVDB Cent is Counterfeit is the one pictured to the left.

Thoughts on Perfect Counterfeits

by
Doug Nyholm

With the proliferation of high quality counterfeits entering the market I would like to pose a question to the readers. Do you think it is a good idea for the grading services to publish discreet details of counterfeits they encounter? I personally have mixed feeling about this. First, it is akin to grading the counterfeiters work. In other words, you make a mistake here and there making your counterfeit and it becomes a marker in identifying your coin as a fake. Now this is published and as a counterfeiter you can now correct your mistake and make a better fake. Now your fakes will be even harder to detect. Or, is it that counterfeiters have insufficient resources no matter what to create a perfect fake. Obviously anything short of government resources will make the process of minting coins extremely difficult let alone create anything undetectable as a fake. So then releasing diagnostics of counterfeit coins should truly benefit the collector and could greatly assist the identification of fakes. Either way the publication of these diagnostics can be a quagmire and there are merits to both arguments.

In getting back to the perfect counterfeit. Technology has never been more advanced as it is today and it can definitely be used in the manufacture of coins. This is true for both legitimate and nefarious applications. Good, high quality fakes are continuously improving but the ways of detecting these fakes have also progressed. But, will the time come sometime in the future that a perfect fake can actually be manufactured? There is more information available both on the internet and published books which are published every year which further identifies die varieties, characteristics of both common and rare coins. These allow the collector and counterfeiter to have detailed access to a multitude of diagnostics. It has been reported that the Chinese counterfeiters have large libraries of books and the information contained therein can and is used by them to improve their work. I make no comment one way or another but I am seriously concerned about the possibility of perfect counterfeits. I'm sure that the modern counterfeiter has no plans to create more examples of a 1804 Silver Dollar or a 1913 Liberty Nickel but what about a roll or two of 3-legged Buffalos or a batch of perfect 1908-S Indian Cents. There would be a huge profit margin and these key or semi-key dates would be rapidly absorbed into the market. All I can say is, "keep your guard up and don't take anything for granted." Hopefully any perfect counterfeits are years away and again, hopefully, we and our hobby experts will be able to detect them.



Doug Nyholm

Which 1909-SVDB cent is the fake?

Can you tell?

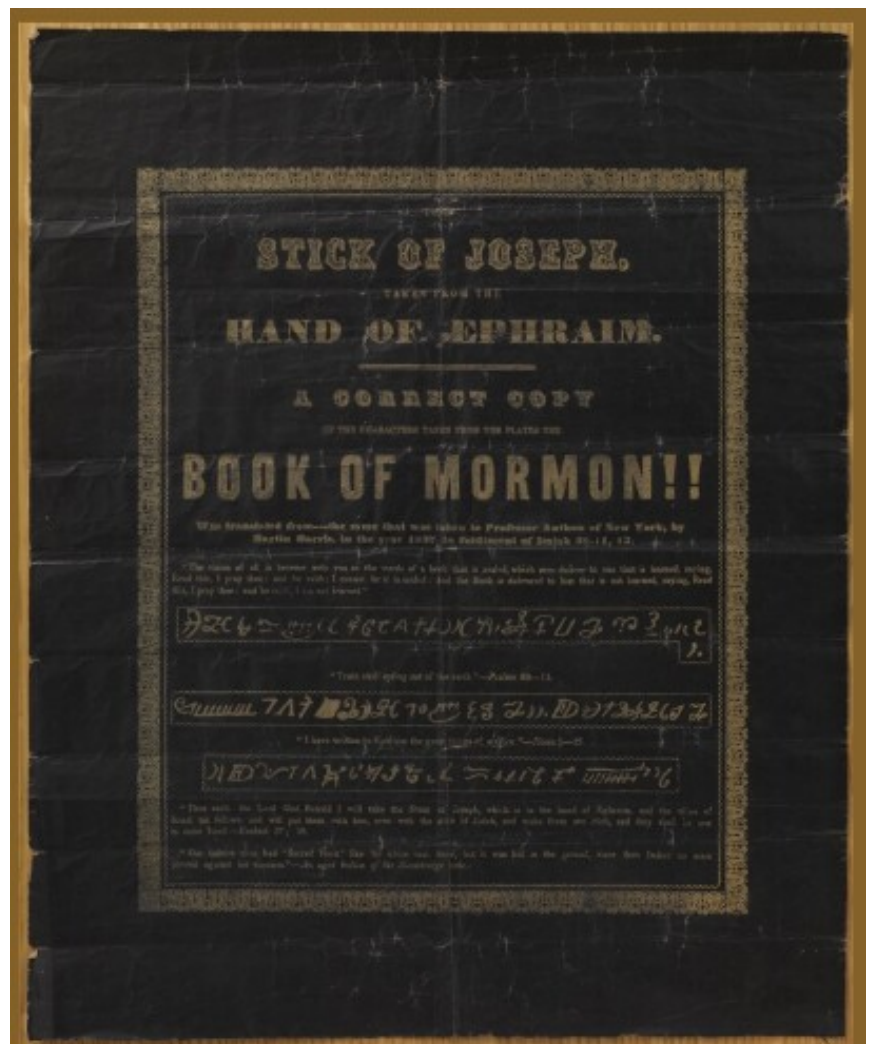


Shown here is an extremely rare broadside from early Church history. There are only four known, two reside in the Church archives, one at BYU and a single example in collectors hands.

One of the very unique features regarding this is the three lines of writing which were copied directly from the gold plates which were translated into the Book of Mormon by Joseph Smith. It is thought that these particular lines are from the missing portion of the Book or Mormon.

A copy and some additional information can be found in the Joseph Smith papers.

Below is a copy of the wording on the broadside shown.



The
STICK OF JOSEPH,
 Taken from the
HAND OF EPHRAIM.1
A CORRECT COPY
Of the characters taken from the plates the
BOOK OF MORMON!!

Was translated from—the same that was taken to Professor [Charles] Anthon of New York, by
 Martin Harris, in the year 1827 in fulfilment of Isaiah 29.11, 12.2

“The vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith; I cannot for it is sealed: And the Book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.”

[one line of characters]

“Truth shall spring out of the earth.”—Psalms 85—11.

[one line of characters]

“I have written to Ephraim the great things of my law.”—Hosea 8—12.

[one line of characters]

“Thus saith the Lord God, Behold I will take the Stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.—Ezekiel 37;19.

“Our fathers once had ‘Sacred Book’ like the white man have, but it was hid in the ground, since then Indian no more prevail against his enemies.”—An aged Indian of the Stockbridge tribe.

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The Utah Numismatic Society is now enjoying its 64th year serving collectors in Utah. We sponsor an annual coin show held in Sandy which you may have attended. Our monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday in Salt Lake City. We have many knowledgeable as well as novice and beginning collectors in attendance every month.

Our monthly publication entitled "The Mint Master" contains interesting reading featuring articles such as the 'Counterfeit Corner,' 'Book Reviews,' 'Young Numismatists,' as well as many other numismatic news-worthy columns.

Our meetings include Bourse, Auctions, expert speakers as well as our annual "Youth Night" and "Summer Picnic."

We invite you to attend one of our meetings held at the Columbus Community Center, 2350 S. 500 E., Salt Lake City.

